

SPECIES OF PYRALIDAE AND PTEROPHORIDAE (LEP.)  
IN NORTH WALES

By H. N. MICHAELIS\*

At the request of the late S. Gordon Smith, I produced a list of records of the above families found in Cheshire and North Wales to be published in *Cheshire and North Wales Natural History* (Chester Society of Natural Science, vol. iv, 1950) followed by further records in vol v, 1951/53. Having lived in the Conwy valley for the past twenty years, I feel that an up-to-date list of species occurring in the five northern vice-counties is desirable. The vice-counties are Merionethshire (48), Caernarvonshire (49), Denbighshire (50), Flintshire (51) and Anglesey (52); also are included are some records from the western vice-county of Cardiganshire (46). Regretfully, only a few records from Montgomeryshire (47) were obtained and the southern part of Merionethshire is not as well covered as other areas. I have noticed that there is a general "lumping" of records such as "Whixall", Shropshire (VC40) when those from Fenn's Moss and Bettisfield should be shown as from VC50 in Wales; as far as possible, the latter are separated.

Recent experience and increased knowledge of the local flora has led me to express doubts on a few species included in my former lists. There is still much scope for addition of species and information on distribution. The numerals i-xii refer to the months in which the imagines occur unless otherwise stated.

## PYRALIDAE

**Crambinae**

*Chilo phragmitella* Hübn. Occasional, usually singly, from Cors Fochno (46), Arthog (48), Morsley and Wrexham (50) and Bagillt (51), vi-vii.

*Chrysoteuchia culmella* L. (*hortuella* Hübn.). Plentiful on grassland up to 2,500 feet, late v-vii.

*Crambus pascuella* L. Common on wet ground up to 1,800 feet and on damp flushes on sandhills and sea cliffs, vi-viii.

*C. uliginosellus* Zell. Local and uncommon on mosses and wet areas on sandhills in 46, 49, 50 and 52; scarce above 1,000 feet; in flight is difficult to distinguish from *C. pascuella*, vii-viii.

*C. hamella* Thunb. A single record from Bettisfield Moss (50) by H. L. Burrows in viii, 1950, vii-viii.

*C. pratella* L. (*dumetella* Hübn.) Morfa Dyffryn near Llanbedr ix (48) in 1967 (RGW), the only authenticated record, vi-vii.

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- C. lathoniellus* Zinck. (*nemorella* Hübn., *pratellus* auctt.) Plentiful on low ground though not seen above 1,000 ft., v-vii.
- C. perlella* Scop. A variable species found throughout usually in small numbers but most plentiful on mosses and saltmarshes. The usual form on limestone and other dry ground has few silver white, on saltmarshes these are usually suffused with shining ochreous while on mosses the veins and costa are suffused with dark grey or black scales (*warringtonellus* Staint.), vii-early ix.
- Agriphila selasella* Hübn. Throughout on most saltmarshes though never plentiful, vii-viii.
- A. straminella* D. & S. (*culmella* auct). Very common throughout from sea level to over 3,000 ft., vi-ix, usually in viii-ix on mountain summits.
- A. tristella* D. & S. Plentiful throughout and very variable, up to 1,000 ft., vii-ix.
- A. inquinatella* D. & S. Plentiful on well drained grassland especially on limestone, vii-ix; possibly there is a flight movement to ground over 1,000 ft., in viii.
- A. latistria* Haw. Local and uncommon mainly on humus on sandhills; Harlech (48), Deganwy (49), Prestatyn (51) and inland at Gresford (50).
- A. geniculea* Haw. Usually plentiful in dry locations, it occurs in only small numbers in eastern 49 in some years, vii-ix occasionally into x.
- Catoptria pinella* L. Local in 46 - 51 on edges of old conifer plantations, vii - viii.
- C. margaritella* L. Common on wet ground and mossland up to 2,000 feet, generally specimens from high ground are smaller than from lower mosses in 52, vii - early x, one was seen in Coed Maentwrog (48) on 5.xi.1967.
- C. furcatellus* Zett. Two records, both in 49, are Snowdon in 1930 by H. W. Daltry and a forewing brought to me by a walker from the summit of Carnedd Llywelyn (3,485 ft.) in vii 1980; could be looked for on the Carneddau and Glyder from about 2,500 feet upwards in early evening, vii-viii.
- C. falsella* D. & S. So far there are three records - Great Orme (49) in 1930 (HNM); Glan Conwy (50) in 1975 (HNM); Porthamel nature reserve (52) in 1983 (MJM); it should be searched for on mossy limestone walls at dusk or later, viii.
- Pediasia contaminella* Hübn. There are two records prior to 1905 from 48 and 49; possibly these may refer to the next species.
- P. aridella* Thunb. (*salinellus* Tutt). One on Talacre sandhills (51) by R. Prichard in 1951 and occasionally at Newborough salt-marsh (52) 1968-81, vii-viii.

*Donacaula forficella* Thunb. Uncommon, occasional records from 46, 49 and 50, vii-viii.

*D. mucronellus* Thunb. One at Bangor at light on 13.vii.1983 by MJM.

*Acentria ephemerella* D. & S. (*nivea* Ol.) Occasional from 49, 50, 51 and Bodorgan (52); seen in large numbers on the canal at Bettisfield (50) in 1949 and has recently been found by F. & N. in the Wrexham (50) area.

### Scopariinae

*Scoparia subfusca* Haw. (*cembrae* auctt.) Often common throughout but varies in numbers from year to year, vii-ix.

*S. pyralella* D. & S. (*arundinata* Thunb.) Widespread particularly on sandhills and limestone, vi-viii.

*S. ambigualis* Treit. Plentiful from sea level to over 2,000 feet, the commonest mossland and high ground *Scoparia*, mid vi-ix.

*Eudonia pallida* Curt. Occasional in 48-52 but plentiful where found on wet ground and fen, vii-viii.

*Dipleurina lacustrata* Panz. (*crataegella* Hübn.) Generally common, vi-viii.

*Eudonia murana* Curt. Local on mossy walls and rocks, appears less plentiful on carboniferous limestone than on other rocks; appears to have two broods in vi-early vii and in viii, possibly a single brood at above 1,800 feet in late vii-viii; in 46, 48, 49 and 50, occurs on Bardsey island (50) (MJM).

*E. angustea* Curt. Plentiful throughout, especially on sandhills, ix-x occasionally in xi.

*E. delunella* Stt. (*vandaliella* H-S., *resinella* auctt.) Occasional records from Pydew (49) and Llanrhos (49) on limestone, vii.

*E. truncicolella* Staint. Common throughout, mainly a woodland species, vi-vii.

*E. mercurella* L. Widely distributed but not noticed on acid heathland, vii-ix.

### Nymphulinae

*Elophila nymphaeata* L. Common near streams and ponds, vii-viii.

*Parapoynx stratiotata* L. Occasional in like situations in 48 - 52, vii.

*P. stagnata* Don. Occasional though more plentiful than *stratiotata* in 46 and 48 - 52, vii - viii.

*Cataglyphis lemnae* L. Occasional in 46 and 49-51, vi-viii.

### Evergestinae

*Evergestis forficalis* L. Very common, larvae are a pest on brassicas and turnips; feeding at night, they hide by day in fallen leaves and debris at base of plants, can be controlled by insecticide spray applied first week of August; larvae have been found on



sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and sea kale (*Crambe maritima*), vii-viii.

*E. pallidata* Hufn. (*straminalis* Hübn.) One at Tregarth near Bangor (49) by MJM on 31.v.1964.

### **Pyraustinae.**

*Pyrausta aurata* Scop. One unconfirmed record from 47 and occasional on limestone near Llandudno (49); possibly overlooked elsewhere, vi and viii.

*P. ostrinalis* Hübn. A few unconfirmed records from limestone, occasional confirmed records from 49, 50 and 51, vi-vi and vii-viii.

*P. purpuralis* L. Mainly on limestone under 600 feet in all vice counties, also on base rich soils up to 2,000 feet on Snowdon, Glydyr and Carneddau mountains (49) where the food is probably *Thymus*; two broods in v-vi and vii-viii, possibly a single brood at higher levels in vii.

*P. cespitalis* D. & S. Widespread, never plentiful: occurs up to 1,500 feet, v-vi and vii-viii.

*P. nigrata* Scop. One record from Minera (50) in 1984 (F. & N.); have searched on the coastal limestone unsuccessfully and this specimen from the inland limestone is the only known record from north Wales, v-vi and vii, also Llandudno (49) in 1985.

*P. cingulata* L. Common on limestone especially near the coast as the first brood in v - vi and in limited numbers in the second in late vii-viii, have seen it in abundance at Llandudno flying round steep rocks in the evening sun in vi; the food is probably *Thymus* as *Salvia* is scarce, possibly unrecorded food plants should be looked for: flies after dark and comes to light.

*P. sanguinalis* L. Beirne quotes "occurs plentifully on the sandhills of Flintshire" (51), probably emanating from A. O. Walker's *Macrolepidoptera of the Chester District*, 1884, which gives Rhyl; past and recent search was made without result as much of the dune coast line especially near Rhyl is developed into housing and caravan sites, the moth is probably long extinct.

*Margaritia sticticalis* L. The only available record is from Aberdovey (48) by A. Sidgwick in 1901.

*Uresiphita polygonalis* D. & S. (*limbalis* D. & S.) Two records of this immigrant are known: one on 17.viii.1953 by A. Richardson at Beddgelert (49) and one 17.x.1969 by MJM at Bangor (49).

*Microstega pandalis* Hübn. One record in 1950 by J. N. Thornton at Harlech (48), v-vi.

*M. hyalinalis* Hübn. Locality unknown in Merionethshire (48) in *A Revised Handbook of British Lepidoptera*, E. Meyrick, 1927, vii.

*Eurhypha hortulata* L. Common throughout, vi-vii.

- E. lancealis* D. & S. Occurs in small numbers where *Eupatorium* is well established and is usually taken at light, vi-viii.
- E. coronata* Hufn. Occurs regularly in 51 and eastern 50 but is less frequent in 47, 48, 49 and 52 though Elder is a common shrub in all, vi-vii.
- Mutuuraia terrealis* Treit. One record from Loggerheads (51) in A. O. Walker.
- Anania funebris* Strom. Occasional in 46-50 on limestone and on base rich soil where *Solidago virgaurea* is established; all specimens seen have the large white markings together with the white sub-costal dot as described by J. D. Bradley (*Ent. Gaz.* 1964 **15**: 74) contrasting with specimens from north Lancashire and Yorkshire which have smaller markings and lack the sub-costal dot, v-vi.
- Ebulea crocealis* Hübn. Local but usually plentiful where *Pulicaria dysenterica* grows in 46 and 48-51, vi.
- Obsibotys fuscalis* D. & S. Plentiful throughout where *Rhinanthus* and to a lesser extent, *Melampyrum* grow; one bred from *Pedicularis palustris* from Ro-wen (49), late v-vii.
- Udea lutealis* Hübn (*elutalis* D. & S.) Common throughout, vii-ix.
- U. prunalis* D. & S. Common throughout, one of the few lepidoptera found feeding on alexanders (*Smyrniolum olusatrum*) which is possibly a new foodplant, vi-viii.
- U. olivalis* D. & S. Frequent but never plentiful in 46-52, vii-viii.
- U. ferrugalis* Hübn. A frequent migrant sometimes abundant in late summer, also breeds here, v and vii-ix.
- Mecyna asinalis* D. & S. Occasional in 49 from Llandudno westwards to Llyn; most noticeable as a larva in v making white blotches on leaves of *Rubia peregriana*, a plant at the north-western edge of its range in England and Wales, v-vii.
- Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. The distribution relies on the size of spring migration and the moth appears in varying numbers each year, v-vi and vii-x.
- Pleuroptya ruralis* Scop. Common among nettle, not seen above 800 feet though ruined farms have considerable nettle patches at much higher altitudes, vii.

### Pyralinae

- Hysopygia costalis* Fabr. Occasional in 46 and 48-52, usually at m.v. vii-viii.
- Orthopygia glaucinalis* L. Until recently, had only single records from 48-51 though now appears more frequently in 49 and 50, vii-viii.
- Pyralis farinalis* L. Once common in farm buildings for Gresley-Jones found it common at Llandudno in 1910, the only recent records are from Gresford 1981-84 (F. & N.), viii.

*Aglossa pinguinalis* L. Years ago this was frequent in farm buildings and prior to 1951 was found 46 and 49-51; the latest record is from Bardsey (49) on 20.vii.1966 (MJM), vi-vii.

*Endotricha flammealis* D. & S. All recent records are from VC49 namely, Bardsey 1967, Porth Ceriad 1970, Bangor 1979 and Sychnant Pass, Conwy 1983; other records are prior to 1951 from 48, 49 and 51, vii-viii.

### Galleriinae

*Achroia grisella* Fab. Probably widespread in bee hives, so far records are from 49, 50, 51 and 52; a few moths were found on walls and tree trunks far away from cultivated hives which suggests larvae feed in wild bees nest's, vi-ix.

*Aphomia sociella* L. Recorded from all vice-counties and is common in 49 and 50, vi-viii.

*Aphomia gularis* Zell. A dead specimen sent to me from a grocer in Flint (51) which was probably imported with nuts, 10.iv.1981.

### Phycitinae

*Anerastia lotella* Hübn. Uncommon or overlooked on coastal sand-hills; single specimens from 49, 51 and 52, vii.

*Cryptoblabes bistriga* Haw. Not recorded since 1967 when a specimen was found at Glan Conwy (50) and Coed Maentwrog (48), vi-vii.

*Acrobasis consociella* Hübn. Widespread, 48-52, easily found as larvae on small oak trees, comes readily to light, vii-viii. (Day lists *tumidella* Zinck (*zelleri* Rag.) as common near Holywell (51) but does not list *consociella*; there may be mis-identification for I have no records of *tumidella* and feel confirmation is required.).

*Numonia advenella* Zinck. Occasional records from widespread localities in 48-52; larvae in vi from *Sorbus aucuparia* at 1,200 feet, vii-viii.

*N. marmorea* Haw. Occasional in 46 and 48-52 usually among *Prunus spinosa* near the coast.

*Pempelia palumbella* D. & S. Widespread in 46 and 48-52, often plentiful at light on heathland, vii-viii.

*Metriostola betulae* Goeze. Local in 46 and 48-52; larvae sometimes common on *Betula pubescens* in vi at Fenn's Moss (50), vii-viii.

*Pyla fusca* Haw. Often plentiful on heaths, found occasionally in oak woods where heather is not present, is it also a migrant, v-vii?

*Phycita roborella* D. & S. Common in old oak woods in 46 and 48-51, vii - viii.

*Dioryctria abietella* D. & S. Despite of widespread *Pinus sylvestris*, we have only two records — Hafod Fawr (48) in 1981 (MH.) and Cwm (51) by the late E. S. Lewis, vii - viii.



- Hypochalcia ahenella* D. & S. Occasional in 47, 49 and 50, common on the Creuddyn limestone (49), vi - vii.
- Pempeliella diluta* Haw (*dilutella* Hubn.) Widespread but never plentiful on limestone, 46 and 49 - 52; the associated ant *Lasius flavus* is plentiful especially on coastal limestone, vii-viii.
- Euzophera pinguis* Haw. One at light by S. Coxey on 13.viii.1984 near Vivod, Llangollen (50); though ash trees are widespread, this is the first authentic record for north Wales.
- Ephestia* species. With one exception, the larvae feed mainly on stored products such as grain, flour, dried fruits, beans etc., and it is difficult to obtain records.
- Ephestia elutella* Hüb. Occasional in shops and houses in 48-52, v-x.
- E. kuehniella* Zell. Occasional in 49-51 mainly from bakeries, viii-ix.
- E. figuliella* Gregs. One traced to mixed dried fruit in Llanrwst (50), 11.viii.1971.
- E. parasitella* Staud. ssp *unicolorella* Staud. Occasional but widespread in 48-50, usually at light or beaten from old ivy; a dingy unicolorous species which may well be overlooked, vii-viii.
- Homoeosoma nebulella* D. & S. Available records are Great Orme, Llandudno (49) by Denzil ffennell on 10.vii.1969, Bettisfield (50) by J. Hignett circa 1936 and one prior to 1903 in Day's list from Holyhead (52), vi-vii.
- H. sinuella* Fab. New to north Wales are one from Marford (50) on 4.vii.1981 (MH) and two from Gresford (50) in 1984 (F & N), vi-viii.
- Phycitodes binaevella* Hüb. Records are from Abersoch by N. L. Birkett, Cwm-y-Glo near Llanberis by D. Agassiz, Llandudno limestone (HNM), Waunfawr (MH) all in 49 and Glan Conwy in 50 (HNM) and Eglwyseg near Llangollen (50) by P. C. Wormald (EMM 1867), vii.
- P. saxicola* Vaugh. Occasional at Glan Conwy (50) by HNM and one at Waunfawr (49) by MH, vii-viii.
- P. carlinella* Hein. Occasional at light and bred from ragwort (46 and 49-52), vii and larvae in viii.

## PTEROPHORIDAE

### Agdistinae

- Crombruggia laetus* Zell. One flying over heather and rushes on Hiraethog moors (50) by HNM on 9.vii.1968 which was probably carried from south-west Europe by strong south-west winds which deposited red dust in England and Wales; thought to be the second authentic specimen (det. BM.) in British Isles and is now in the British Museum.
- Capperia britanniodactylus* Gregs. One larva on upper shoots of

- Teucrium* in woodland near Llanrwst (50) in June 1980 and later reared (HNM); still occurs in Cheshire (58) so may be overlooked in north Wales, vii.
- Amblyptilia acanthodactyla* Hubn. Widespread in 48-52 and 46, sometimes abundant on heathland from sea level to 1,000 feet, vii and ix-v.
- A. punctidactyla* Haw. One from 47 by C. M. Jones and one from Rhuddlan (51) by E. S. Lewis.
- Platyptilia calodactyla* D. & S. One from Minera (50) 17.viii.84 (F. & N.) det. BM; the record from Whixall (50) recently reported in *Proc. Lancs. & Ches. Ent. Soc.* 1979/80, proved to be *A. acanthodactyla*.
- P. gonodactyla* D. & S. Appears to be widespread in eastern 50 and 51 with only occasional records from 48 and 49, vi and viii/ix.
- P. pallidactyla* Haw. Often common among *Achillea* throughout, vi-vii.
- P. ochrodactyla* D. & S. One old record, locality unspecified, from eastern 51; *Tanacetum vulgare* is considered a local plant though the moth is found on Wirral (58), confirmation is desirable.
- Stenoptilia zophodactylus* Scop. single specimens were found on the Great Orme (49) in July 1968 and 1974.
- S. bipunctidactyla* Scop. Common among *Scabiosa* in 46 and 48-52, vi-x.
- S. pterodactyla* L. Widespread in 48-52 but never common, vi-viii.

### **Pterophorinae**

- Pterophorus tridactyla* L. Fairly common on *Thymus* on limestone in 48-52, vi-viii.
- P. baliodactylus* Zell. One record from Mold (51) by the late Wm. Mansbridge, vii-viii.
- P. pentadactyla* L. Common among *Convolvulus* in 46 and 48-52, vi-vii occasionally in viii.
- S. spilodactylus* Curtis. A local insect found elsewhere on the chalk downs and coast of southern England; in north Wales it is found where *Marrubium vulgare* is well established from the Llandudno area (49) through 50 to Prestatyn (51) and is found on limestone mainly near the coast, vi-vii. The larva hibernates among leaves at the base of the plant later feeding in v and vi and pupates along the mid-vein on the upperside of a leaf. It is suggested that the plant was introduced as a medicinal herb by monks in the 11th/13th centuries (cf. *Weeds and Aliens*, Edward Salisbury, New Naturalist Series No. 43). This is open to question as introduction would be likely to be by seed rather than by roots containing hibernating larvae of an insect with a south coast distribution, e.g. seeds would be easily transpor-



table and more certain of reproduction than roots bought by horse or mule from the Isle of Wight or the South Downs. The moth is usually common where found which suggests that both insect and plant were originally native to the coastal limestone of north Wales.

*Adaina microdactyla* Hübn. Larval galls in the previous years stems of *Eupatorium* are frequent throughout from October to May though the moth is rarely seen, v-vi and viii.

*Leioptilus osteodactylus* Zell. Widespread but never common mainly on limestone where *Solidago virgaurea* grows in 49-51, vi-vii.

*L. tephradactylus* Hübn. Recorded from Bangor (49) by Kendrick on 5 vii.1862 (Zoologist 1863), more recently by E. C. Pelham-Clinton at Glandyfi (46) in 1949 and Dolgelly (48) by the late Basil Snell in 1949, vi-vii.

*L. lithodactyla* Treits. Fairly common among *Pulicaria dysenterica* and less so among *Inula conyza* in 46 and 48-52, vii-viii.

*Emmelina monodactyla* L. Common in 46, 47 and 48-52, ix-iv.

*Marasmarcha lunaedactyla* Haw (Agdistinae). There is a record prior to 1903 from the Leete limestone near Mold (51) from Day's List; I have included this record with some doubt as *Ononis repens* is very sparse in this area. If the moth does occur in north Wales, it could be expected on the coastal sandhills of 50 and 51 where the foodplant is plentiful; C. S. Gregson collected frequently on these dunes and is hardly likely to have overlooked this species. It could be mistaken for *L. lithodactyla* which is plentiful on the Leete.

### Alucitidae

*Alucita hexadactyla* L. Is included though not of the Pterophoridae and is plentiful throughout among *Lonicera*, viii-iv.

### Acknowledgements

Much information was received from Mrs. M. J. Morgan, Michael Hull, R. G. Warren and from the joint efforts of B. Formstone and M. Newstead, the last two have recently become interested in the microlepidoptera.

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*ANTICHLORIS ERIPHIA* FAB.  
(LEPIDOPTERA : CTENUCHIDAE),  
FIRST RECORD FOR BRITAIN

By R. J. BARNETT\*

On 6th February 1985 Mrs. F. Gardner of Queniborough, Leicester brought in to the New Walk Museum, Leicester, a living specimen of a black and green moth, similar in shape and appearance to a burnet moth. A bunch of bananas had been purchased by Mrs. Gardner on the 1st February from Leicester Market. The moth had emerged from a yellow fibrous cocoon which was still attached to one of the bananas.

I established that the moth belonged to the family Ctenuchidae, and then sent it to the British Museum (Natural History) for specific determination. Mr. D. J. Carter kindly identified it as *Antichloris eriphia* Fab. The similar *A. viridis* Druce is a relatively common import to Britain amongst banana consignments and hence is listed by Bradley and Fletcher, 1979. This is the first known occurrence of *A. eriphia* in this country. Other specimens in collections may have been mis-identified in the past as *A. viridis*. This may be checked by reference to the characteristic pointed shape of the hind wing in *A. eriphia*.

*A. eriphia* has a fairly widespread distribution across tropical South America and other specimens could easily be imported to Britain accidentally. This particular specimen (and its freeze-dried cocoon and banana) are now held in the collections of Leicestershire Museums, accession number Z63.1985.1 and .2.

### Acknowledgements

My thanks to Mr. D. J. Carter for identifying the specimen and for providing further information.

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